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General Assembly

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Agenda item 52
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

A strengthened and revitalized General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work,[1]

Recognizing that the current interdependent international environment requires the strengthening of the multilateral system in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

Recognizing also that the General Assembly is the universal and representative forum comprising all Members of the United Nations,

Recognizing further that, in order to be fully utilized, the General Assembly must fully play its role as set out in the Charter,

Stressing the need to strengthen the role and authority of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community as set out in the Charter,

Reaffirming also the role and authority of the General Assembly in encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification in accordance with Article 13 of the Charter,

[1] Resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/193 of 17 December 1996, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 of 1 July 2004 and 59/95 of 3 December 2004.

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Stressing the need fully to respect and maintain the balance between the principal organs of the United Nations within their respective purviews and mandates, in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming that the plenary meetings of the General Assembly should constitute a forum for high-level policy statements, as well as for the consideration, inter alia, of agenda items of special political importance and/or urgency,

Underscoring the importance of providing adequate resources for the implementation of mandated programmes and activities,

Reaffirming its authority in consideration of all budgetary issues, as stipulated in the Charter,

Role and authority of the General Assembly

1. *Stresses* the need to demonstrate political will to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly;

2. *Decides*, in the context of further strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, to:

(a) Convene and organize major thematic debates in order to establish broad international understanding on current substantive issues of importance to Member States;

(b) Discuss issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 35 of the Charter as well as, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

(c) Consider the annual reports as well as special reports of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, and Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, through substantive and interactive debates;

(d) Invite the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern;

(e) Also invite the Security Council to update the General Assembly on a regular basis on the steps it has taken or is contemplating with respect to improving its reporting to the Assembly;

(f) Hold interactive debates on other reports submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Charter;

President of the General Assembly

3. *Decides* to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by:

(a) Authorizing the President of the General Assembly, to propose interactive debates on current issues on the agenda of the Assembly, in consultation with Member States;

(b) Augmenting the resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly from within existing resources, subject to consideration by the Assembly of the Secretary-General's proposed budget for 2006-2007, to provide for two further additional posts at management and senior levels to be filled on an annual basis following consultations with the incoming President beginning at the sixtieth session of the Assembly;

(c) Making available to the President of the General Assembly adequate office and conference space with a view to enabling the President to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office;

(d) Requesting the Secretary-General to ensure that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol services at Headquarters and at other United Nations duty stations;

Agenda and working methods of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly

4. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc working group open to all Member States to identify ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, including building on relevant Assembly resolutions, inter alia, through reviewing the agenda and working methods of the Assembly;

5. *Also decides* that the ad hoc working group shall submit a report to the General Assembly with specific recommendations at its sixtieth session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the ad hoc working group with the necessary services;

7. *Encourages* the Main Committees to implement in full the provisions contained in paragraph 3 of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, building upon the results of relevant discussions in each Committee;

8. *Encourages* the bureaux of the Main Committees to enhance their cooperation and to learn from each other's best practices;

9. *Requests* the Chairpersons of the Main Committees, at the end of their terms of office, to provide a short report on their observations and "lessons learned" to their immediate successors;

10. *Decides* that time limits on speeches in the plenary and in the Main Committees shall be applied in accordance with rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

11. *Strongly urges* all officers presiding over meetings of the General Assembly to start such meetings on time;

12. *Encourages* the holding of interactive debates with a view to contributing to intergovernmental decision-making;

13. *Invites* Member States that are aligned with statements already made by a chair of a group of Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions that they make in their national capacity on points that have not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the groups in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online;

15. *Recommends* the consideration of the use of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the modalities thereof to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

Documentation

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement further the measures set out in paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002 on the consolidation of reports and in paragraph 6 of the annex to Assembly resolution 58/316 on documentation;

17. *Encourages* Member States, when seeking additional information, to request that they be provided with the information either orally or, if in writing, in the form of information sheets, annexes, tables and the like, and encourages the wider use of this practice;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation and reports are issued well in advance, in keeping with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation simultaneously in all official languages, as set out in resolution 49/221 of 23 December 1994 and in resolution 59/309 of 22 June 2005 on multilingualism;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a status report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of all resolutions regarding the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 and the present resolution.